

HEAVENS WEEP

And the Rain Comes Down in Perfect Torrents.

INVOLVING LOSS OF LIFE.

At De Haven, a Small Oil Town Near Pittsburgh--Six Persons were Overtaken by the Sudden Rising of the Waters--22 1/2 Inches of Rain Fell in Pittsburgh, Doing Great Damage, but Entailing No Loss of Life in the City--Surrounding Towns Almost Washed Out--Daylight Turned into Almost Egyptian Darkness--An Unprecedented Rainfall.

PITTSBURGH, Aug. 12--This morning at 5 o'clock this city and vicinity was visited by one of the heaviest and most persistent downpours of rain that has been seen here for years. It carried death and destruction with it, and as a result six lives were sacrificed, and thousands of dollars worth of property laid waste.

The dead are: Mrs. Susan Auld, widow, aged 74; Mrs. Ellen Poppleton, widow, aged 53; Mrs. Florence Robinson, her daughter, aged 31; Martin Cochran, infant; Omel Schaffer, 19 years; unknown man.

The storm came from the southwest, preceded by dark and threatening clouds, which obscured the sun and enveloped the city in an almost Egyptian darkness. As the gloom began to dispel, the rain came in torrents, and for an hour the downpour was terrific. It then let up slightly, but for three hours longer it rained without ceasing. Up to noon 2 1/2 inches had fallen, 1.80 of this being precipitated during the first hour.

In the immediate city little damage was done, but the suburbs and small towns nearby suffered severely.

At De Haven, a small oil town on the Pittsburgh & Western railroad, about ten miles from here, had to bear the brunt of the storm's fury and it was there most of the lives were lost. The little town of six hundred inhabitants is situated in a valley just at the junction of two creeks and every heavy storm fills these creeks and floods portions of the place. The inhabitants have been accustomed to such troubles and pay but little attention to them. This over-confidence probably was the cause of the loss of life this morning. When the storm burst the house of James Robinson was made the place of refuge by ten people. Of this number three women were drowned. The storm passed on the nature of a cloudburst, and filled the stream to overflowing with wonderful rapidity.

Swept Away by the Flood.

A torrent of eighteen feet came rushing down and struck the Robinson residence with a terrible force, carrying it from its foundation and toppling it over into the swirling flood. The house, collapsing as it was carried along, was lodged against some willows along the bank, and the occupants, who had clung with desperation to the ruins were enabled by a desperate effort to make their way to land, all except the three women, who were drowned and their bodies washed down the stream. Their battered corpses were found after the flood subsided, one in a corn field, another lodged in a tree and the third in West Little.

Little Martin Cochran was in bed sick with scarlet fever. The flood entered his father's house and crept around his bed before he could be removed. The shock and exposure brought his life to an end within an hour or two.

Omel Schaffer was standing on the Pittsburgh & Western bridge at Sharpsburg, with thousands of others, watching the high waters. He attempted to catch a piece of driftwood, lost his balance and was caught by the torrent and whirled into eternity in an instant, while the onlookers were powerless to help. His body has not been recovered as yet. The other victim was an unknown man, whose body was seen floating down Goar Head creek.

At De Haven, his body has not yet been recovered.

Pine creek, with its mouth at Sharpsburg to De Haven, is a sorry looking spectacle. Every foot of level ground was under water for several hours and miles of gardens and little truck farms were washed out.

The west end of Sharpsburg and Elm were flooded and the water was four feet deep in Spang & Chalfant's mill, putting out the fires, and compelling the workmen to abandon the buildings, some having almost to swim out. The firm's loss will be about \$10,000 and new furnaces will have to be built.

The Pittsburgh & Western railroad has been blockaded practically all day and considerable loss will result.

Many Towns Inundated.

Towns along the Pittsburgh & Western road were completely inundated. Portions of the hills on either side of the tracks were washed down, and deposits of stone and earth covered the railroad tracks. Lightning struck several trees, which made matters worse. Houses occupied by miners along the hillside moved from their foundations and those in the valley were completely washed out. The loss at Etna will amount to between \$75,000 and \$100,000 divided principally between Spang, Chalfant & Company, Allegheny Salt Works, Pittsburgh & Western railroad and the residents of Main and Bridge streets.

At Lowerstown, the greater portion of the town was under water. The heaviest loss is to the farmers. Live stock was drowned and crops were ruined. A small shanty along the creek bank was washed out and the occupants barely escaped with their lives. Evergreen people fared badly. Trees were blown down, stables wrecked and small outbuildings torn from their foundations.

The huge volumes of water rushing down the roads resembled rivers. Foundations of houses being built were weakened.

At Irwin, a thriving town on the Pennsylvania, about twenty miles east of here, also suffered much property damage, but no lives were lost.

At noon word was received that the Fort Pitt dam at Jeannette, had burst and the water was rushing toward Irwin.

Warning was immediately given people living in the lowlands on the west side of the railroad, but before they could get away the flood came rushing down. Brush, trees, telegraph poles and telegraph wires, and debris of all kinds.

Destruction of Property.

The car shops of the Westmoreland coal company was the first to suffer, the employees being compelled to flee for their lives, many having to wade through water to their shoulders. The women and children living in the houses near the shops were forced to the upper stories and roofs. Receding parties were formed and the imperiled ones were taken down in boats and where the water was lower on the banks of men. When the waters of Brush creek had reached its height, the Penn. Plate Glass Company's dam, which had been partially repaired since

KERR WAS DOWNED

For the Chairmanship of the Pennsylvania State Committee

BY THE FRIENDS OF HARRITY.

In spite of the Endorsement of National Chairman Jones and the Expressed Wish of Bryan--Jones Gets Warm Under the Collar when He Hears the News, and Threatens to Remove Harrity from the National Committee--The Attendance of Delegates at the Indianapolis Convention will be Beyond the Expectation of Those who Started the Movement.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Aug. 12.

The state Democratic committee met here this afternoon to elect a chairman to take the place of Robert E. Wright, of Allentown, who has resigned because he is not in sympathy with the Chicago nominees and platform. The candidates to succeed Mr. Wright are Col. John L. Spangler, of Bellefonte, and James Kerr, of Clearfield, former chief clerk of the national house of representatives. Spangler was the choice of the friends of National Chairman Jones. Harrity.

National Chairman Jones backed Kerr and sent the following message to-day to ex-Lieutenant Governor Chauncey F. Black: "From intimate personal relations with Mr. Kerr, I consider him an excellent man to take a leading part in organizing Pennsylvania."

Before the committee convened word was received from the national chairman at New York that if Mr. Kerr was not chosen chairman, he would resort to the power conferred upon him by the party rules and declare a vacancy in the national committee in Pennsylvania and appoint Mr. Kerr to fill the vacancy. Mr. Harrity is the present national committeeman.

When the committee met this afternoon, James Kerr, of Clearfield, and James A. Carr of Philadelphia, were presented for temporary chairman. The telegram from National Chairman Jones was read, recommending Kerr's election as state chairman. Kerr was made temporary chairman by a vote of 42 to 25. This represented a victory for the anti-Harrity forces, and occasioned much surprise.

Mr. Carr's victory was expected. The resignation of State Chairman Wright was then accepted. Nominations for the vacancy being in order, Mr. Kerr, John M. Garman, of Nanticoke, and Col. John M. Spangler, of Bellefonte, were named. The latter was the choice of Mr. Harrity's friends. He withdrew his name and Mr. Carr's friends announced they would support Garman. The vote resulted in Garman's election by 25 to 31.

The Chicago platform and Bryan and Sewall were endorsed. John P. Sensenbender, of Philadelphia, declined to vote for the resolution and resigned from the committee. It was then decided to reconvene the state convention at Harrisburg, September 10, to fill vacancies on the ticket. Before adjourning a committee was appointed to consider the advisability of selecting two Populists on the electoral ticket.

CHAIRMAN JONES MAD

At the Turning Down of Kerr for State Chairman.

NEW YORK, Aug. 12--Chairman Jones, of the National Democratic committee, was in anything but a pleasant frame of mind to-day, and it is said this evening he made threats as to what would be done if there was not active participation in the Bryan campaign by all the national committeemen. Following closely the visit of a delegation of Pennsylvania men to Mr. Bryan to-day, Chairman Jones attempted to influence the action of the Pennsylvania state committee by proclaiming in a telegram that James Kerr, of Clearfield, would be a proper man to elect as chairman in place of Mr. Wright.

When he received a telegram saying that Garman, in whose favor Spangler had retired, had been elected over Kerr, thus giving the victory to the Harrity people, Senator Jones is said to have made the threat that all national committeemen who did not take an active part in the campaign would be ousted from the committee.

A POLITICAL MIX

In Colorado--There will be Two Republican Tickets in the Field.

DENVER, Col., Aug. 12--There are now in Colorado two state committees claiming to represent the Republican party and two state conventions have been called--one for September 9, in this city, and the other September 29 in Colorado Springs. The latter convention was decided upon at a meeting of the state committee July 29, at which the followers of Senator Wolcott, who will support McKinley and Hobart, were in control. Chairman Holmes and the McKinley members of the committee leave the city for another meeting, which was signed by a majority of all the members.

This meeting was attended by 46 of the 112 members in person and 25 others were represented by proxy. A new chairman was elected. Resolutions were adopted repudiating the action of the committee in declaring the silver question of paramount importance, endorsing Senator Teller and commending the action of the Colorado delegation in leaving the national Republican convention. A state convention was called for September 9, at which it is the intention of the silver Republicans to endorse the Democratic national ticket and make nominations for state officers. The other convention will nominate McKinley and Hobart electors and probably also a full state ticket.

National Democratic Party.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Aug. 12--The executive committee of the national Democratic party, this afternoon sent out to every member of the national committee the official call for the national convention. Each member of the national committee was also instructed by telegram to wire the executive committee here the names of delegates as soon as they are chosen. The delegates selected listed by the Twenty-sixth of August the day before the Texas convention meets. A number of men of national prominence have been solicited to submit drafts of platform for the consideration of the committee on platform. Secretary Carlisle will be consulted in reference to the financial plank.

Chairman W. D. Byrum, of the executive committee, said:

"The report from all the states indicate that the attendance at the convention will be beyond the expectation of the men who started the movement."

Mrs. Bryan's Ring Found.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Aug. 12--The engagement ring of Mrs. William J. Bryan, wife of the Democratic nominee for President, which was found here yesterday, is still in the hands of the police, awaiting instructions from Mr. Bryan, who was notified immediately upon its recovery. The ring was found

THE WIND-UP

Of the Democratic Convention Came Late Last Night.

THE STATE TICKET COMPLETED.

Captain Boggs Defeated Camden Summers for Auditor.

IN A TWO-BALLOT BATTLE.

The Scenes of the Afternoon Were Again Disgraceful.

ORDER AND DECENCY THROWN

To the Winds by the Excited Mob that Called Itself a Convention of Deliberative Democrats--The Charleston "State House Ring" Received Some Very Hard Knocks--For State Treasurer Colonel Rowan was Defeated by Mr. Tucker, of West-Virginia, and Mr. Riley Renominated--Closing Scenes Last Night. Review of the Work of the Convention.

STATE DEMOCRATIC TICKET.

For Governor--C. C. Watts, of Kanawha county.

For Auditor--W. H. Boggs, of Pendleton county.

For Attorney General--T. S. Riley, of Ohio county.

For Superintendent of Schools--Virgil A. Lewis, of Mason county.

For Judge of the Supreme Court--John H. Holt, of Cabell county.

After two days of wrangling, bitter contests for supremacy between two factions, plotting and counter-plotting, and charges and counter-charges, the Democratic state convention adjourned sine die at 10 o'clock last night, having left in its wake bursted ambitions, broken plates and a generally unsavory record.

The work of the convention, when it was permitted by a howling, disorderly mob to do any work, was a succession of surprises. Readers of the Intelligencer are thoroughly posted about the bitter contest which resulted in the nomination of C. C. Watts for governor, and are aware of the significance of the unsuccessful effort to defeat him. It was a fight of the better element of the Democracy of the state against a corrupt party machine--a professional office-holding syndicate that has and desires to continue in control of the party machine for its own personal benefit, and the better element lost for the reasons that it was not early enough in the field and of tenacity in its own ranks.

The double deal, however, by the anti-ringing forces, which involved a surrender of their active opposition to Watts and their refusal to present the names of Smith and Bennett to the convention, almost certainly a combination of interests so involved, if possible, break the state calculation of the state house machine, which was to capture the entire state ticket, or, in other words, to hog everything in sight. They made an almost united front against almost every candidate the machine favored, and so successfully they that they smashed the calculations of the bosses in more than one instance.

The nomination of Boggs for auditor, while it knocked out a good man in the person of Summers, was the first victory. It was even more significant, for it was a defeat of the candidate who, after training with the anti-Watts faction, sold out his side to the Kanawha crowd.

For West W. Brown was one of the anti-Watts men in the committee on credentials and would have helped constitute an anti-Watts majority which could have given them an advantage and increased their vote at least 28 in the convention. The Watts people made a deal with Mr. Brown to take him up for auditor and thus they got him over. The fact that Kanawha cast her vote for Brown for auditor and that other Watts counties went to him is evidence.

Then the anti-Watts went after the treasurer and succeeded in defeating Rowan, a member of the present administration and identified with the ring, being solidly supported by it. The other bursted hope was the hope to nominate a Kanawha county man for the supreme judgeship. The anti-Watts went to the support of Holt almost in a body, and got assistance from many who had voted for Watts for governor.

What Might Have Been.

The ease with which the anti-Watts people defeated the maneuvers of the Chiltons and the lieutenant yesterday, showed clearly how easily they might have accomplished the other thing--the defeat of Watts--had they set about the work in time, before so many delegates had given their personal pledges to Watts, or been handicapped by the operations of unit rules.

The net result is that while honors are even in some respects, it remains a fact that if Watts is elected governor the Chiltons will remain in the saddle at Charleston and the state, and perhaps federal patronage will be at the disposal of the same old crowd, and the Democratic party of West Virginia will remain boss-ridden.

The proceedings of yesterday, like those of the first day, were characterized by disorder, once or twice bordering on riot, and the bitterness of feeling between the factions would not down, even when it came to the selection of a candidate for membership of the highest judicial body in the state. Except in a few rare instances the convention was void of that ringing enthusiasm which is characteristic of a harmonious body of patriots met together for the good of the country.

There was plenty of noise, it is true--there was little of anything else--but it was not the noise of enthusiasm for a cause. It was a noise of the wrangling of factions--the howls of the losers, the derisive laughter, the cat calls, the shouts of defiance, and even oaths directed by the partisans of the factional leaders against each other. The convention, in fact, was in its element when it was in a row. This is not an exaggerated statement. There were the hundreds of witnesses who will bear evidence to its truth.

The action of the convention in leaving in the hands of the state committee the power to deal with the Populists in the matter of presidential electors was no surprise. It was a foregone conclusion, and does not change the situation. The ticket is not the strongest the Democracy could have put up. Its weakness, especially has many elements of weakness, but Republicans must not think it can be defeated without thorough and effective work. This they are equipped well enough and are enthusiastic enough to perform.

COMPLETING THE TICKET.

Routine Proceedings of the Convention Yesterday--Boggs, for Auditor, Scores an Antislavery Victory, and the Chiltons Received Another Knockout in the Contest for Treasurer, Tucker Defeating Rowan.

The Democratic state convention was slow in getting down to its business yesterday morning. The hour set was 10 o'clock, but it was an hour later when the delegates thronged the hall, having just arrived from town on the 10 o'clock motor. Chairman Johnson quickly brought the convention to order. Nominations for auditor had been closed the night before and a ballot was declared in order. There were nine candidates in the field and it soon became evident that there could be no choice on the first ballot. When the roll had been called, the three leading candidates were Boggs, of Pendleton, 215; Forrest W. Brown, of Jefferson, 152; and Camden Summers, of Harrison, 123. Nash, Tippet, Key, McKay and the others following with a smaller following. When Wayne county was called, a lank fellow mounted a chair and yelled with great effect: "Wayne county casts her twenty-one solid for that grand old Confederate, W. H. Boggs, of Pendleton."

It Nudged a Hint.

This set the convention about as wild as the playing of "Dixie" by the band Wednesday afternoon, and caused the tide to turn toward Boggs like a whirlwind. Imitating the late lamented Chicago convention, a procession was formed with county standards, which after going about the hall, gathered about Pendleton's standard.

Then counties began to change and to add to the confusion Mr. Key withdrew his name. Wood withered Nash and went solid to Boggs. Boone went to Summers. There was much confusion in the Kanawha delegation, but the chairman announced a change, her forty-six votes going to Brown. This was a Chilton move that was expected to stampede the convention for the Jefferson lawyer, but it failed signally. Its effect was wholly destroyed when a Kanawha delegate arose and said: "Kanawha's full vote is given to Brown only because the unit rule is in force in our delegation. There is a strong minority that wishes to publicly protest against that rule. There is a large minority in this delegation for W. H. Boggs, of Pendleton."

"Bob" Carr was in the reporters' row

a few feet away and yelled to the objector in the Kanawha delegation: "Bob" Carr's Home Thrust.

"Take your medicine, you fellows."

Before the result of the ballot was announced, a delegate introduced a resolution providing that after a county has voted, a change can be made only when a correction of an error is to be made. A delegate arose on a point of order, calling that nothing is in order during a roll call, calling attention to the fact that the result of the ballot had not been announced.

In the meantime the ballot was footed up by the secretaries and the result announced. The ballot, as it stood before the storm of changes began, was as follows:

Counties.	Summers.	Boggs.	McKay.	Nash.	Key.	Brown.
Barbour	12	12	12	12	12	12
Berkeley	12	12	12	12	12	12
Boone	12	12	12	12	12	12
Braxton	12	12	12	12	12	12
Brooke	12	12	12	12	12	12
Cabell	12	12	12	12	12	12
Calhoun	12	12	12	12	12	12
Clay	12	12	12	12	12	12
Doddrige	12	12	12	12	12	12
Elbert	12	12	12	12	12	12
Grant	12	12	12	12	12	12
Greene	12	12	12	12	12	12
Harrison	12	12	12	12	12	12
Holmes	12	12	12	12	12	12
Jefferson	12	12	12	12	12	12
Kanawha	12	12	12	12	12	12
Lewis	12	12	12	12	12	12
Mason	12	12	12	12	12	12
Marion	12	12	12	12	12	12
Marshall	12	12	12	12	12	12
Mercer	12	12	12	12	12	12
Mineral	12	12	12	12	12	12
Mingo	12	12	12	12	12	12
Monroe	12	12	12	12	12	12
Morgan	12	12	12	12	12	12
Nicholas	12	12	12	12	12	12
Ohio	12	12	12	12	12	12
Pendleton	12	12	12	12	12	12
Pleasant	12	12	12	12	12	12
Putnam	12	12	12	12	12	12
Raleigh	12	12	12	12	12	12
Rockwell	12	12	12	12	12	12
Ritchie	12	12	12	12	12	12
Roane	12	12	12	12	12	12
Summers	12	12	12	12	12	12
Taylor	12	12	12	12	12	12
Tucker	12	12	12	12	12	12
Tyler	12	12	12	12	12	12
Waynesburg	12	12	12	12	12	12
Webster	12	12	12	12	12	12
Wetzel	12	12	12	12	12	12
Wirt	12	12	12	12	12	12
Wyoming	12	12	12	12	12	12
Totals	12	12	12	12	12	12

Scattering votes--Taylor, 20; Tippet, 42; McKidowney, 30.

When the changes had been recorded, it stood this way:

Summers 124

Boggs 201

Brown 185

McKay 152

Nash 123

Key 123

Tippet 42

McKidowney 30

Changed the Rules.

At this point the proposed change in the rules was again pushed before the convention and with better success. The chair put the motion on the resolution allowing changes only when a correction is to be made, and although the ones seemed more numerous than the ones, he declared it carried.

Then the second ballot was on and there were deals and rumors of deals as thick as Bryan's silver speeches. A Kanawha delegate implored "Joe" Chilton to have Kanawha swing over to Boggs, and "Joe" said it would never do to have "Bob" Carr go back to Charleston and crowd over him, intimating that Carr was working for Boggs.

Finally the second ballot was completed and announced, giving the nomination to Boggs by a comfortable majority, as follows:

Counties.	Summers.	Boggs.	McKay.	Brown.
Barbour	112	112	112	112
Berkeley	112	112	112	112
Boone	112	112	112	112
Braxton	112	112	112	112
Brooke	112	112	112	112
Cabell	112	112	112	112
Calhoun	112	112	112	112
Clay	112	112	112	112
Doddrige	112	112	112	112
Elbert	112	112	112	112
Grant	112	112	112	112
Greene	112	112	112	112
Harrison	112	112	112	112
Holmes	112	112	112	112
Jefferson	112	112	112	112
Kanawha	112	112	112	112
Lewis	112	112	112	112
Mason	112	112	112	112
Marion	112	112	112	112
Marshall	112	112	112	112
Mercer	112	112	112	112
Mineral	112	112	112	112
Mingo	112	112	112	112
Monroe	112	112	112	112
Morgan	112	112	112	112
Nicholas	112	112	112	112
Ohio	112	112	112	112
Pendleton	112	112	112	112
Pleasant	112	112	112	112
Putnam	112	112	112	112
Raleigh	112	112	112	112
Rockwell	112	112	112	112
Ritchie	112	112	112	112
Roane	112	112	112	112
Summers	112	112	112	112
Taylor	112	112	112	112
Tucker	112	112	112	112
Tyler	112	112	112	112
Waynesburg	112	112	112	112